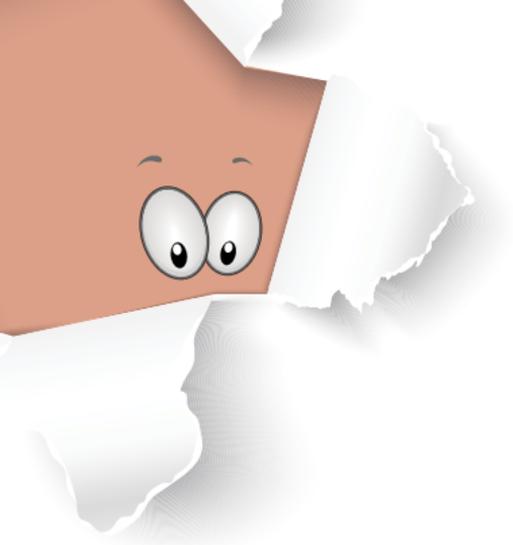
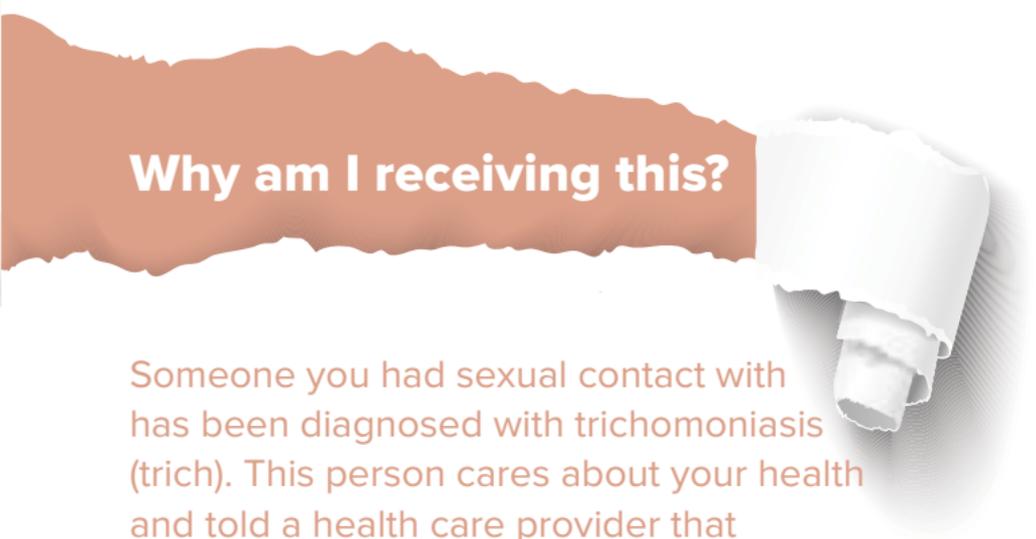




Please read.

Important information for you.





Why am I receiving this?

Someone you had sexual contact with has been diagnosed with trichomoniasis (trich). This person cares about your health and told a health care provider that they may have exposed someone else to trich. You are receiving this educational material to make sure you are informed of your possible exposure and have information to take care of your health.

Expedited Partner Treatment*

Expedited Partner Treatment (EPT) is a practice whereby a health care provider can prescribe certain antibiotics (medicine) to the sexual partners of a person with a sexually transmitted infection (STI), including trich, without a prior medical evaluation or clinical assessment of the partner(s).

*Expedited Partner Treatment is also known as Expedited Partner Therapy

What is EPT?

EPT lets health care providers prescribe medicine to people who may have been exposed to trich. EPT will be given to you as either:

- A prescription that can be filled at any pharmacy; or
- Medication-in-hand, where the full dose of medicine is delivered to you by your sex partner.

If you have a prescription and do not have health insurance, or cannot afford the medicine, contact your local health department at https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact_information/ to see if you can get free or low-cost treatment.

You may also qualify for one of New York State's health insurance programs (<https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov>).

How do I use EPT?

EPT is easy!

Simply follow these steps:

1. Read this information to find out about EPT, trich, and the medicine used to treat it. Pay close attention to the information about the medicine. Make sure that you can take it safely For more information about trich visit: <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/3839.pdf>

2. The medicine given to you specifically treats trich. You should contact your health care provider or a local health department to get tested for other STIs, including HIV.
3. If you have a prescription, go to a local pharmacy and fill the prescription.
4. Once you have the medicine, follow the information provided. If you have questions, talk with a pharmacist or health care provider.
5. Follow up with your health care provider or sexual health clinic in 3 months to make sure that you do not have trich. Get tested for other STIs, including HIV.
6. If you have other sex partners who you think may have been exposed to trich, contact your local health care provider or sexual health clinic and ask about Partner Services – a way to anonymously notify your sexual partners of potential exposure to an STI and/or HIV.

If you think you could be pregnant, please get a pregnancy test before starting any treatment, as certain medications may not be safe to take during pregnancy.

If you are pregnant, please consult a health care provider for an examination and testing for STIs, which can affect your pregnancy and delivery.

What is trich?

Trich is an STI caused by bacteria that you can get from oral, vaginal, or anal sex.

Anyone who has sex can get trich. Some people are more likely to get it. These include people who:

- Are between 15 and 24 years of age; and/or
- Have new sex partners or multiple sex partners; and/or
- Do not correctly use a latex or polyurethane condom or dental dam every time they have sex.

Trich can infect the genitals (penis or vagina). Trich is spread through sex with someone who has trich, without the proper use of a condom or dental dam.

How do I know if I have trich?

There are many signs/symptoms of trich; however, some people do not experience any symptoms. Those who have no symptoms can still pass the infection to other sex partners.

If you do have symptoms, they usually start within 5 to 28 days after you had sex with someone who has trich. Sometimes symptoms appear much later. People with symptoms may have one or more of the following:

- Itching or irritation inside the penis
- Burning after urination or ejaculation
- Discharge from the penis
- Itching, burning, redness, or soreness of the genitals
- Discomfort with urination

- A change in their vaginal discharge (i.e., thin discharge or increased volume) that can be clear, white, yellowish, or greenish with an unusual fishy smell

If symptoms of a more serious infection are present (such as abdominal, pelvic, or testicular pain, fever, nausea, or vomiting) you should seek medical care as soon as possible.

Can trich be cured?

Yes. The medicine that you have been given will cure trich in most cases. For more information, read the “Medication Section”.*

If trich is not treated early, it can become more serious. The infection can cause genital inflammation, preterm deliveries, and low birth weights.

How can I protect myself?

Even if you had trich before, you can still get it again. Your body does not become immune to the infection.

Preventing STIs is an important part of your sexual health. There are a few things that you can do to protect yourself from getting trich or other STIs and HIV.

TEST. Get tested for other STIs.

Call your local health department or your health care provider to find out how to get tested for other STIs, including HIV, and how to notify your sexual partner(s) of potential STI exposure through Partner Services.

3-Site Testing: You should get tested at each body site where you have sex. Certain STIs, such as gonorrhea and chlamydia, can infect the genitals, throat, and rectum. Testing only the genitals may miss an infection you have elsewhere.

TAKE. Take the medicine.

The medicine that you have been prescribed or given is a single dose of metronidazole OR tinidazole. It is important to take medicine as directed. If trich is not treated, it can lead to serious health risks, including inflammation of the genitals, preterm deliveries, and low birth weights.

WAIT. Wait to have sex.

After you and your partner(s) each take the medicine, wait at least 10 days before you have any sex. This gives the medicine time to work. If you have sex too soon, you or your partner(s) could get the infection again. Talk about the risks and prevention of STIs with new partner(s) BEFORE you have sex.

USE. Use a condom or dental dam every time you have oral, anal, or vaginal sex.

When used correctly, latex or polyurethane condoms and dental dams can greatly reduce the risk of getting STIs, including trich. If you are a person who is living with HIV, or may have been exposed to HIV, you should contact your health care provider for a complete exam, including testing for STIs and HIV.

Get checked at 3 months to make sure you do not have trich, or sooner if your symptoms appear or reappear after taking the medicine!

Medication Section

Please read all the directions on the medication before taking anything.

Metronidazole OR Tinidazole:

- DO NOT take if you are allergic to either of these medicines, or if you have had a rash, breathing problems, or other allergic reactions to metronidazole, tinidazole, or other medicines. Call your health care provider for medicine that is safe for you.
- DO NOT take tinidazole if you are pregnant. Call your health care provider for a medicine that is safe for you and your baby.
- DO NOT take if you have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart, or liver disease. Call your health care provider for medicine that is safe for you.
- DO NOT take if you are currently taking another prescription medication, including medicine for diabetes. Call your health care provider for medicine that is safe for you.
- DO NOT take if you have lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting, fever, or have pain or swelling in the testicles (balls). Please see a health care provider instead.
- Do NOT drink alcohol while on the medicine, or for at least 3 days after finishing, or you may become very sick.

Metronidazole and tinidazole are antibiotics. Like other medicine, some people have side effects. Side effects may include diarrhea, upset stomach, stomach pain, constipation, headache, feeling tired or dizzy, getting a rash, and vaginal itching or discharge. If you have any of these side effects and they do not go away on their own in a few days, talk to your health care provider.

If you vomit (throw up) within 24 hours of taking the medicine, call your health care provider. The medicine might not have gotten into your body to treat the infection.

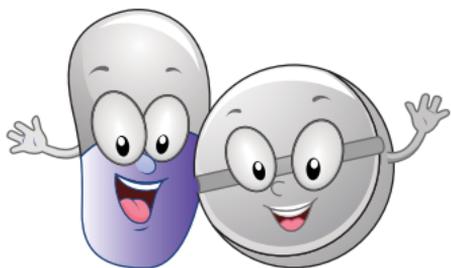
Get emergency medical help (call 911) if you have any signs of an allergic reaction:

- Hives (small red bumps on your body)
- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling on your face, lips, tongue, or throat

Call your health care provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about your medication.

For more information about STIs, or to find a local clinic for testing and treatment, visit:
www.health.ny.gov/STD

For more STI testing locations, visit:
<https://gettested.cdc.gov>





health.ny.gov/EPTpublications



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